

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00

USSS-00 NSAE-00 INRE-00 /031 W

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O 181716Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6981

INFO USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T MADRID 6004

EXDIS

EXCLUSIVE FOR GENERAL GOODPASTER AND GENERAL EADE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR PFOR SP XF

SUBJ: USE OF SPANISH BASES

REF: STATE 205807

1. I CONVEYED TO FOREIGN MINISTER TODAY AT 1:30 PM LOCAL TIME CONTENTS OF DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTION AND AT HIS REQUEST LEFT COPY OF MY STATEMENT WHICH WAS ALONG LINES OF PARAGRAPHS TWO AND THREE OF REF. LOPEZ RODO WAS ACCOMPANIED DURING INTERVIEW BY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FOREIGN POLICY (ARCOS), SUBDIRECTOR GENERAL FOR NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS (PERINAT) AND CHIEF OF SECRETARIAT (MARTINEZ CARO). LOPEX RODO, WHO, ALONG WITH OTHERS, REACTED PASSIVELY TO MY COMMENTS, PROMISED TO READ MY STATEMENT CAREFULLY.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER THEN CALLED SOVIET AIRLIFT "DISTURBING", WONDERING IF THE CUMULATIVE FIGURE OF 5000 TONS WAS PROVEN. I NOTED THAT THESE WERE FIGURES FOR THE 160H AND WERE EVEN LARGER NOW SINCE AIRLIFT HAS CONTINUED AT SAME MASSIVE PACE. LOPEZ-RODO ASKED HOW US CONTACTS WITH THE SOVIETS ARE PROGRESSING AND WHAT ARE THE PROSPECTS OF AN
SECRET

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ACCORD. I REPLIED THAT THERE WERE ALMOST DAILY INTER-VIEWS BETWEEN SECRETARY KISSINGER AND THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR AS WELL AS MEETINGS BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND PERMANENT MEMBERS OF SECURITY COUNCIL AND OTHER INFLUENTIAL PARTIES.

I DECLINED TO SPECULATE ON THE PROSPECTS FOR A SETTLEMENT BUT NOTED THAT MOST IMPORTANT IMMEDIATE STEP IS TO GET A CEASEFIRE. I SAID THAT OF COURSE MUCH DEPENDED ON THE COOPERATION OF THE RUSSIANS.

3. LOPEZ-RODO CONFIRMED HE STILL EXPECTS TO HAVE IMMEDIATE EXTRAORDINARY JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING, PRINCIPALLY TO TALK ABOUT PRESENCE OF TANKER WING AT TORREJON. REFERRING TO EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN AIR MINISTER SALVADOR AND 16TH AIR FORCE COMMANDER (SEPTEL, FOREIGN MINISTER NOTED THAT US ITSELF, IN REPLY GIVEN AIR MINISTER TODAY, HAD CHARACTERIZED SPANISH REQUEST ON TANKERS AS BOTH DIPLOMATIC AND MILITARY MATTER WITHIN COMPETENCE OF JOINT COMMITTEE.

4. DRAWING ON TEXT OF AIR MINISTER'S LETTER TO 16TH AIR FORCE COMMANDER, FOREIGN MINISTER AGAIN STRESSED HAZARD TANKERS REPRESENT FOR MADRID AREA AND REITERATED LETTER'S CLAIM THAT TANKER TRAFFIC AT TORREJON CAUSES DELAYS IN CIVIL AIR TRAFFIC AT BARAJAS. HE STRESSED THAT OUR "MUTUAL INTERESTS" ARE OBVIOUS, SINCE TANKER ACCIDENT WOULD TURN SPANISH PUBLIC OPINION AGAINST BOTH SPANISH AND US GOVERNMENTS. HE COMMENTED THAT PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE AND WE MUST THEREFORE AVOID POSSIBLE AIR DISASTER FOR HUMANE REASONS AND AT THE SAME TIME FORESTALL ADVERSE POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES. I REPLIED THAT I FELT ALL POINTS IN MINISTER SALVADOR'S LETTER HAD BEEN COVERED BY GENERAL FELICES IN HIS REPLY BUT HE FELT THIS SHOULD BE DISCUSSED AT JOINT COMMITTEE LEVEL RATHER THAN JUST BETWEEN AIR FORCE COMMANDERS.

5. FOREIGN MINISTER AGAIN THANKED ME FOR PROMPT REPLY TO HIS QUESTIONS REGARDING TANKERS AND F-4S (HE HAD THANKED ME EARLIER BY LETTER), BUT ADDED THAT, SINCE THERE STILL SOME DOUBTS DXONG SPANISH MILITARY ABOUT DESTINATION OF TWO F-4S, THIS IS ANOTHER MATTER THAT SHOULD BE DISCUSSED IN TOMORROW'S PROPOSED JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING. I FEEL THAT THE JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING IS DESIRED BY LOPEZ-RODO
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PRIMARILY FOR INTERNAL POLITICAL PURPOSES, FOR WHAT THEY FREQUENTLY REFER TO AS "OPTICS", AND ALSO AS A REACTION TO ARAB PRESSURES. UNDOUBTEDLY LOPEZ-RODO WANTS TO BE IN A POSITION TO SAY TO THE CABINET AS WELL AS THE PRESS, IF APPROPRIATE, THAT HE HAS MADE SPAIN'S POSITION WITH REGARD TO USE OF THE BASES CLEAR NOT ONLY PERSONALLY TO THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR BUT ALSO IN THE FORMAL FRAMEWORK OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED BY THE AGREEMENT AS A FORUM FOR CONSULTATION BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS ON MATTERS RELATED TO DEFENSE.

6. IN VIEW OF OVERRIDING GOS INTEREST IN EARLIEST DISCUSSIONS OF SPECIFIC ISSUES OF TANKER LOCATION AND

DELIVERY OF F-4S, I BELIEVE WE HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE
BUT TO GO THROUGH WITH SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING
REQUESTED FOR TOMORROW. GENERAL EADE WILL ATTEND VICE
GENERAL GOODPASTER.
RIVERO

SECRET

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